

Lt. Governor John Garamendi, Chair of Calif. State Lands Commission will Testify at U.S Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar's San Francisco Hearing on Offshore Oil Drilling

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA ADVISORY

WHO:

Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi, chair of the State Lands Commission

U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar

Environmental Groups

WHAT:

Garamendi will testify at U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar's hearing on offshore oil drilling and the findings regarding Outer Continental Shelf energy resources. As chair of the State Lands Commission and former U.S Deputy Interior Secretary in the Clinton administration, Garamendi will present testimony explaining the California State Lands Commission's historic and continuing opposition to offshore oil drilling in California.

WHEN:

Thursday

April 16

9 a.m. testimony by Salazar and Garamendi

(8 a.m. doors open, set-up for media)

WHERE:

University of California, San Francisco

Mission Bay Conference Center
Robertson Auditorium
1675 Owens Street
San Francisco, California

NOTE:

Hearing will be webcast:

<http://www.ltg.ca.gov>

<http://www.visualwebcaster.com/event.asp?id=57278>

- As chairman, Garamendi led the State Lands Commission to reject the first offshore oil drilling lease in California in four decades. He also led the fight to reject a proposed Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal off the Oxnard/Malibu coast, highlighting the plan's deficiencies in protecting the environmental health of the communities, the ocean and coastline.

- As a member of the Ocean Protection Council, Garamendi continues to seek stronger marine debris legislation, most recently campaigning for a legislative package that would phase out the production of disposable plastic bags, polystyrene packaging, endocrine disruptor bisphenol-A, and removable bottle caps, all of which blight our coastlines, pose a public health risk, and kill thousands of marine animals every year. To help usher the legislation through Sacramento, Garamendi formed the Clean Seas Coalition, a diverse coalition of environmentalists, scientists, students, community activists, and elected officials dedicated to protecting California's coastline.

- As Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior, Garamendi oversaw the Department's eight bureaus and helped develop national global warming policy with Vice President Al Gore and Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt. He also was the key negotiator for water disputes throughout California and brought the Riverside Habitat Conservation Plan to successful implementation, which protected 66,000 acres of rare habitat. It is a national model.

- As a California legislator, Garamendi authored the Tahoe Bond Act (1982), allowing the State to acquire and preserve private land in the Tahoe Basin. Since then, he has continued to help lead the state's efforts to protect the quality and clarity of Lake Tahoe's water, shore zone, natural habitat, and regional development activities.

- Garamendi's 32 years of public service and environmental leadership was recently recognized by leading California coastal advocates:

- Environmental Defense Center (Environmental Hero Award, June 2008)
- San Diego Coast Keeper (2007 Coastal Champion Award, November 2007)
- The California Coastal Coalition & the Wetlands Recovery Project (2007 Friend of the Coast Award, April 2007)

